



UNITED STATES SENATOR ★ SERVING THE CITIZENS OF IDAHO

**LARRY CRAIG**

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**CRAIG VOTES TO SEND MESSAGE TO DEMOCRATS:  
'NO ENERGY BILL WITHOUT PRODUCTION'**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Idaho Senator Larry Craig joined 42 other U.S. Senators today to prevent S. 3268, a narrow energy speculation bill, from moving forward unless Senators are permitted to offer amendments to incorporate energy production initiatives in the measure.

Pro-production Senators, by a vote of 43 to 50, argued that new energy production such as offshore oil and natural gas drilling, oil shale development and clean coal processing must be included in any energy legislation intended to reduce gas prices and other energy costs.

“The Democratic Leader will not allow this country to produce in the areas where we have known oil reserves that we can get to the quickest, that we can bring on-line the fastest,” Craig said.

“Senate bill 3268 is the vehicle on which we could do that if we were allowed to amend it, if we were allowed the normal process of the United States Senate,” Craig said. “Republicans today said we ought to have that right to amend it.”

Craig wants to offer an amendment to the bill to open up the Eastern Gulf of Mexico to within 50 miles off Florida’s coast, remove the existing moratoria on exploration, and allow the Department of the Interior to offer leases in that area for oil and natural gas exploration.

“The leader has simply refused to allow the process to go forward, to allow my amendment and other amendments by my colleagues that would ensure a public policy allowing us to go into this area and develop, to go into other areas that we’ve taken off limits for political purposes only and put them within our limits again,” Craig said.

“I would hope the phones start ringing as Americans grow angry with their politician that denies them the supply to the marketplace that would bring down the price of oil at the pump.”